

**NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL:
MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING
EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**

**ACTION
Agenda Item G-3
May 21, 2001**

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the council approve the master of arts in teaching proposed by Eastern Kentucky University. The program would be registered in CIP 13.0101 (Education, General).

Background

Eastern Kentucky University designed the master of arts in teaching to prepare teachers for secondary and P-12 academic fields with initial emphasis in teacher-shortage subject areas. Some of the greatest shortages are in family and consumer sciences, Spanish, mathematics, and science. Arts, business, and health also are experiencing shortages. School administrators throughout ECU's service area strongly support the proposed program.

The MAT would allow adults who have completed degrees in certifiable fields to complete certification requirements, a master's degree, and Rank II classification in 13 months. Depending on demand, classes and required non-classroom work could be scheduled to accommodate employed students. Also, an alternative route to certification would offer students an intensive summer program followed by two years of salaried teaching while completing the program. Existing undergraduate secondary and P-12 teacher preparation programs will continue.

ECU is seeking a variety of ways to provide the MAT program, including on-line delivery. ECU has requested funding through the Action Agenda Trust Fund to develop coursework to be offered through the Kentucky Virtual University. ECU also plans to explore collaboration with other institutions offering an MAT.

Using the Kentucky Postsecondary Program Proposal System, ECU posted the proposed program to the council's Web site. It was reviewed without objection by the other Kentucky public and independent institutions. The ECU Board of Regents approved the program at its January 27, 2001, meeting.

An overview of the program, prepared by ECU, is attached.

Eastern Kentucky University – Master of Arts in Teaching

Executive Summary

To have qualified individuals in all education positions in Kentucky schools, Eastern Kentucky University supports the admission of students originally trained outside the field of education in their pursuit of education-related degrees and certification programs. The proposed Master of Arts in Teaching degree program offers special opportunities to adults with degrees in secondary and all-level certification fields who desire a career or second career in teaching. The degree will be offered in multiple formats to allow experienced and qualified individuals an opportunity to prepare for teaching careers while working and supporting families. The MAT program includes significant content area coursework to assure enhanced competency in subject expertise. As we gain more experience with the degree and student population, we will expand access to courses by offering them via distance technologies (KTLN and KYVU). We also plan to explore cooperative course offerings and transfer agreements with other institutions in the state.

The MAT is specifically designed for the adult student and will require more concentrated coursework and significantly more self-directed learning. Students will be expected to take their understanding of topics studied to an advanced level and link the content with real-life experiences. At the present time we are requesting authority for offering the MAT in secondary teaching field as well as all-level art, music, health and physical education. In the near future we plan to offer degrees in special education, middle school and finally elementary school areas.

The MAT will be offered with three delivery options: 1) a 13 MONTH OPTION for students who can attend full time, 2) a FULLY EMPLOYED option to accommodate individuals who need to remain employed while returning to college that involves alternate scheduling of classes, and 3) an ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION option for students with exceptional life/work experience that will involve an intensive summer program followed by two years of employment in schools as teachers. Students completing the program, regardless of the delivery mode, will meet all outcome measures in the Kentucky New Teacher Standards.

The MAT program is comprised of 39 semester hours in the following areas: Literacy (3 hours), Special Populations (3 hours), Practicum (8 hours), Education (13 hours), and Subject Matter/Content (12 hours). Courses will be taught by qualified faculty already at the University and by selected practitioners from schools.

Pending approval, the first courses will be offered in the summer of 2001. A waiting list already exists for students interested in entering the program.